Extension of Vallakkadavu Canal to the A. V. M. Canal.

70. ✱ MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state what all steps have hitherto been taken up to the present for extending the Vallakkadavu Canal to the A. V. M. Canal?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is pending investigation.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know when the investigation was begun and when it is likely to be completed?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I do not know about the previous history. Recently I examined one or two sites, and I found that we would have to do it again.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know when it is likely to be completed?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Possibly in about six months or a year.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether investigation is going on now?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is so.

Road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin.

71. ✱ MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for further widening of the concrete road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin; and

(b) if so, what is the urgent and immediate necessity therefor?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: *(a)* Yes.

(b) The present concrete surface is insufficient for lwo lines of traffic and deep ruts are formed on the edges of the concrete surface making cutting edges causing damage to tyres and springs.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether this insufficiency was not brought to the notice of Government, and if so, who was responsible for this default?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not say that. I have been much more concerned with what I could do, rather than with the other work of finding who was responsible for the fault.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether an estimate has been prepared and the probable cost of the work now contemplated ascertained?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About Rs. 15 lakhs.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is possible for Government to ascertain the probable loss incurred by them on that account?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is possible for there has been an enormous increase in the price of materials in the market. Another reason is that the prices have increased mainly due to inflation. The labour charges too have gone up.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government undertake to conduct an enquiry to find out the delinquent and meet out due punishment?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The conditions of traffic obtaining at the present time on these roads do not warrant any investigation.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, the Honourable member is judging beforehand. My question is whether the Government will institute an enquiry to find out the delinquent?

PRESIDENT: It will not be done for the simple reason that the width of the road was considered to be sufficient at the time of construction by the experts. Now it is found that on account of the increase of traffic and also because of the intensity of cart traffic which go partly on the soft side and partly on the non-metalled side, there has been serious damage to the road in question. We can only go upon the report of the experts in the matter and they stated at one time that the width of the road was sufficient. Under these circumstances where does the question of punishment arise? The expert opinion was taken in the matter and the matter ended.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: In view to the answer that the present concrete surface is insufficient for two lines of traffic and deep ruts are formed on the edges of the concrete surface making cutting edges causing damage to tyres and springs, may I know whether any maintenance work is being done on these roads?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the amount spent for repairing this road?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: At the rate of about Rs. 1,500 a mile some money has been spent towards maintenance for the two years.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the total cost incurred for this purpose?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It will come to about Rs. 75,000.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Am I to take it that with such a large amount the maintenance work has not been done properly or that the amount has been inadequate for the purpose of repairs?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I should not like to give an opinion on that matter.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether it will not be sufficient to fill up the ruts so formed and make the road usable for traffic without spending so much amount?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The width of the road is so narrow that on account of the considerable amount of traffic, some other scheme has to be thought of. It is also seen that serious damage is caused to the vehicles on account of the deep edges that have been formed on the concrete surface. For these reasons further widening has to be considered.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. NESAMONY: May I ask, is there any other road for cart traffic excepting the present one?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: That is also one factor to be considered.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the maintenance work was done by the contractors or by the department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Partly by the contractors and partly by the department.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know who the contractors are?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: That work was not done very recently and therefore I am not in a position to say that. The Modern Construction Company have also attended to this work.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government will be pleased to see that such contractors are not given any work in this State hereafter?

PRESIDENT: What is the contractor to do in this matter? The Engineer says that a certain width is sufficient for the road and the contractor has carried out the work. Therefore there is no need to look into this matter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But the contractors were attending to the maintenance work on that road.

PRESIDENT: The question has been sufficiently answered.

Irrigation Works.

72. * MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the full amounts budgeted for irrigation during 1118, 1119 and 1120 have been spent by this time for the various items for which they have been budgeted;

(*b*) if not, why not;

(*c*) what is the amount that has not been spent; and

(*d*) what is being done with the unspent amount?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Due to delay in land acquisition, short period of working season and also due to non-response from contractors.

(*c*) Rs. 1,78,307 for 1118, Rs. 1,41,522 for 1119 and Rs. 90,083 for 1120.

(*d*) The unspent balance is credited to the "Irrigation fund" from which amounts will be appropriated according to requirements.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are in a position to see that the unspent balance is expended during the course of the next year on minor irrigation works?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: A great deal more has been spent on irrigation works for the purpose of 'Grow More Food Campaign.'

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know who is responsible for bringing about such an unspent balance?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly